

Land at Barn's Way Desford Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Orion Heritage

on behalf of
Rosconn Strategic Land Ltd

CA Project: MK0158
CA Report: MK00158_1

November 2019



Land at Barn's Way
Desford
Leicestershire

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Barn's Way
Location:	Desford, Leicestershire
NGR:	448396 303506
Type:	Archaeological Evaluation
Date:	11-13 November 2019
Planning Reference:	19/00149/OUT
Location of Archive:	Leicester County Council Museum
Accession Number:	X.A107.2019
Site Code:	LBAR19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2019 at Land at Barn's Way, Desford, Leicestershire. Thirteen trenches were excavated.

Of these, four revealed limited evidence of archaeological activity. This comprised the remains of three ditches, one small pit and one furrow. No evidence of archaeological activity was recorded in the other nine trenches.

The pottery retrieved from pit 403 indicates possibly ephemeral prehistoric activity within or near the site, which could date to the Late Neolithic period. The heavily abraded condition of the sherd and its lack of association with other remains could indicate long term exposure to the elements, and movement over time, perhaps through the agency of agricultural activity, around the site prior to infilling as part of the pit fill. It may on that basis be residual within the pit. However, one cannot, unfortunately, draw a more meaningful conclusion on the basis of this single very abraded sherd. Otherwise, the results of the evaluation broadly confirm the expectations discussed in the preceding desk-based assessment and indicated in the results of the geophysical survey.

In summary, no evidence of occupation was identified within the site and the remains of ditches are likely to represent infilled elements of former field boundaries suggesting that the principal use of the site through time has been for agricultural purposes.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Orion Heritage on behalf of Rosconn Strategic Land Ltd on Land at Barn's Way, Desford, Leicestershire (hereafter, the site) (centred at NGR: 448396 303506; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to discharge a condition for archaeological works attached to an outline planning consent granted for development at the site (19/00149/OUT; Condition 20).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a scope of works agreed by Orion Heritage with the Principal Archaeologist at Leicester County Council (PALCC), Richard Clark, who provides archaeological advice to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC). This scope of works was set out in a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by Orion Heritage (Orion Heritage 2019a) and approved by the PALCC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was not possible to convene a site monitors meeting.

The site

- 1.3 The site measures approximately 3.4ha and comprises arable fields on the eastern edge of Desford. It is bounded by Barn's Way to the west and Leicester Lane to the south; further fields lie to the north and east. The site lies at approximately 108m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) with a slight undulating topography.
- 1.4 The site's underlying bedrock geology is mapped as Edwalton Member – Mudstone and Siltstone a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 228 to 237 million years ago in the Triassic Period (BGS 2019). The natural substrate encountered, which overlies this principally comprises mid pink orange clay with patches of silt.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following archaeological background has been summarised from a Desk-Based Assessment produced by Orion Heritage (Orion Heritage 2019b).

- 2.2 A geophysical survey of the site, undertaken by Magnitude Surveys in March 2019 (MS 2019), identified no anomalies that could be interpreted as evidence of archaeological activity.

Prehistoric period (pre-AD 43)

- 2.3 No evidence of prehistoric activity has been recorded within the site or the surrounding area. However, there is evidence of a settlement 350m to the south-west of the site. An archaeological investigation on the site at land off Leicester lane, found evidence of an Iron Age to early Roman settlement (HER ELE5632), where remains included a corn drier and a ditched enclosure (HER MLE9267).
- 2.4 The only other evidence of prehistoric activity included a prehistoric gully found during trial trenching works at land east of Peckleton Lane, Desford (HER ELE5650) 650m to the south-west of the site; and a prehistoric struck flint found during a watching brief on the Rothley Valley Trunk Sewer extension, 500m to the north of the site (HER ELE6811).
- 2.5 Other potential prehistoric sites have been observed as cropmarks close to the site, although none have been confirmed to be of prehistoric date.

Roman period (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 2.6 The HER records no evidence of Roman period remains on the site. The nearest evidence of Roman occupation comes from the archaeological investigation (also noted above) on land off Leicester Lane, 350m to the south-west of the site (HER ELE5632). The investigation found evidence of an Iron Age to early Roman settlement, including a corn drier and enclosure (HER MLE7267). Building works in 1960 identified the remains of pottery kilns 650m to the west of the site (HER MLE1742). Roman pottery was also recovered by chance on land close to Manor Road, 800m to the west of the site (HER MLE7927).
- 2.7 An enclosure, thought to be of Roman date, was discovered through aerial photography 900m to the east of the site (HER MLE2727). Overall the available evidence was interpreted as suggesting that the site is located outside the area of main Roman period activity.

Saxon (early medieval) and medieval periods (AD 410 – 1539)

- 2.8 There is no evidence of Saxon or medieval activity on the site or the vicinity. Elsewhere though, Desford's historic core is believed to have its origins in the late Saxon period and to have been occupied throughout the medieval period (HER MLE2751). Some Saxon and medieval pottery was recovered during trial trenching works at 23 Main Street in 2013 (HER MLE20694, ELE8554) about 600m to the west of the site.
- 2.9 The site of a medieval windmill is recorded 625m to the north of the site (HER MLE2731) and a medieval deer park with fishponds is recorded 600m to the east of the site (HER MLE17057 and MLE2748). The closest recorded evidence to the site of medieval activity is represented by a cauldron foot recovered as a chance find 200m to its south (HER MLE20307).
- 2.10 The evidence suggests that the site was situated away from any settlement activity; in all likelihood comprising part of Desford's agricultural hinterland.

Post-medieval and modern periods (1539 – the present day)

- 2.11 Settlement during these periods expanded somewhat around the historic core of Desford and the evidence of the 1760 enclosure map and subsequent Tithe map of 1845 confirmed that the site still lay outside the settlement area.
- 2.12 It is only by the late 19th century that Hillside Cottage is built to the north of the site, although the site itself remained part of enclosed agricultural fields. The site remained largely unchanged then until the mid 20th century at which time and since, several of its field boundaries were removed.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the known and potential archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable the PALCC, on behalf of HBBC, to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between any heritage asset's

conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 13 trenches (each measuring 30m by 1.8m) in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and two deposits were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at its offices in Milton Keynes. The archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the archaeological works, will be prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF; *Archaeological Archives a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011)). Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner all artefacts will be deposited with Leicester County Council Museum under accession number reference X.A107.2019, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2 - 6)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds, and where applicable, environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence). These are to be found in Appendices A and B.

5.2 Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 were archaeologically sterile, the only evidence of any activity recorded in these trenches comprising evidence of field drains. The natural substrate was encountered at an average of 0.37m below present ground level (BPGL). This in most trenches was overlain by topsoil, measuring on average 0.37m thick. In trenches 3 - 5 a possible alluvial layer was recorded overlying the natural substrate, measuring 0.18m deep.

Trench 1 (Fig 2)

5.3 Ditch 102 ran in a north-east/south-west direction. It had shallow concave sides with a flat base. The ditch measured 2.2m long, 0.61m wide and 0.12m deep, and contained one single sterile fill, 103. This comprised a mid pink grey brown silt clay with occasional pieces of charcoal and small stones. It contained no finds.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.4 Ditch 303 ran in a north/south direction. It had shallow concave sides and a concave base. The ditch measured 2.2m long, 0.92m wide and 0.39m deep. Ditch 303's single fill, 304, comprised a dark black grey silty clay with coarse grit inclusions. It contained no finds and was cut by ditch 305.

5.5 Ditch 305 ran in a north/south alignment and could possibly represent a recut of ditch 303. It measured 0.64m wide and 0.2m deep and contained a single fill, 306, which comprised mottled light grey and red brown silty clay. Fill 306 contained a sherd of post-medieval to modern pottery and a fragment of roof tile along with pieces of plastic.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 4)

5.5 Pit 403 was located at the northern end of the trench. It was small, measuring 0.5m – 0.6m in diameter; broadly oval in plan and c.0.49m deep. It had a straight, steep sloping edge on its north-east side, a steep sloping slightly concave edge on its south-west side and a concave base. The pit's single fill, 404, comprised a mid

brown grey clayey silt, which contained one small sherd very abraded Neolithic to Bronze Age pottery.

Trench 11 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.6 Furrow 1102 ran in a north-east/south-west direction. It had shallow concave edges and a slightly irregular flat base. Its mid pink brown sandy silt fill, 1103, was truncated by field drain 1104. Fill 1103 contained no finds.

6. THE FINDS

The artefactual material is recorded from two deposits; a ditch fill and a pit fill (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand.

Pottery by Pete Banks

- 6.1 The pottery recovered from the evaluation is recorded in Appendix B and discussed below. Recording of the finds assemblage was direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this now forms the basis of Appendix B (Table 1). The pottery was examined by context, using a x10 binocular microscope and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016) and the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Guidelines (PCRG 2010).
- 6.2 The assemblage comprises two sherds weighting 16g. One sherd (15g) of prehistoric pottery made in a coarse quartz and flint-tempered fabric (QFL) is recorded from pit fill 404. The condition of the sherd is poor, with most surfaces and fractures exhibiting signs of heavy abrasion.
- 6.3 One undiagnostic body sherd (1g) of refined white earthenware (REFW) is recorded from ditch fill 306. The sherd most likely dates to between the late 18th and 20th centuries.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Pete Banks

- 6.4 One fragment (122g) of ceramic roof tile, made in a coarse sandy (cs) fabric, is recorded from ditch fill 306. The fragment most likely dates to the post-medieval period.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Very limited archaeological remains were identified in four of the 13 trenches excavated during the evaluation. These remains comprised evidence of three ditches, one pit and one furrow. Pit 403 contained one fragment of pottery dated to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age period. Two of the ditches were undated, and ditch 305 contained evidence of post-medieval to modern origin. The furrow represents evidence of former ridge and furrow cultivation.
- 7.2 The pottery retrieved from pit 403 indicates possibly ephemeral prehistoric activity within or near the site, which could date to the Late Neolithic period. The heavily abraded condition of the sherd and its lack of association with other remains could indicate long term exposure to the elements, and movement over time, perhaps through the agency of agricultural activity, around the site prior to infilling as part of the pit fill. It may on that basis be residual within the pit. However, one cannot, unfortunately, draw a more meaningful conclusion on the basis of this single very abraded sherd. Otherwise, the results of the evaluation broadly confirm the expectations discussed in the preceding desk-based assessment and indicated in the results of the geophysical survey.
- 7.3 In summary, no evidence of occupation was identified within the site and the remains of ditches are likely to represent infilled elements of former field boundaries suggesting that the principal use of the site through time has been for agricultural purposes.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Eilidh Barr, assisted by Mark Davies, Robert Falvey, Susanna Ferron and Barbara Grahame. The report was written by Eilidh Barr. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Pete Banks and Emma Aitken respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Mark Hewson.



9. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 18/11/2019
- Booth P., Barclay A., Knight D., Evans J., Brown D.H. and Wood I., 2016 *A standard for pottery studies in Archaeology* Historic England.
- Brown D., 2011 *Archaeological Archives a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Archaeological Archives Forum
- MS (Magnitude Survey) 2019 *Geophysical Survey Report of Land at Barn's Way, Desford, Leicestershire*
- Orion Heritage 2019a *Land at Barn's Way, Desford, Leicestershire, Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*, September 2019
- Orion Heritage 2019b *Land at Barn's Way, Desford, Leicestershire, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, March 2019
- PCRG, 2010 *Prehistoric ceramics research group guidelines* Occasional Papers **1** and **2**
- (MHCLG), 2019 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. *National Planning Policy Framework*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench no	Context no	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (M)	W (M)	D (M)	Spot Date
1	100	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay, friable with rooting and small rounded stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.2	
1	101	Layer	-	Natural	Mid pink orange, clay with silty patches, firm with occasional natural stones	30	1.8	>0.28	
1	102	Cut	-	Cut of ditch	Linear, gentle sloping sides with a break of slope into a concave base	2.2	0.61	0.12	
1	103	Fill	102	Fill of ditch	Mid pinkish grey brown, silty clay, friable, with small rounded stone inclusions.	2.2	0.61	0.12	
2	200	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay, friable with rooting and small rounded stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.31	
2	201	Layer	-	Natural	Mid pink orange, clay with silty patches, firm with occasional natural stones	30	1.8	>0.31	
2	202	Cut	-	Cut of possible ditch	Steep sloping sides with a sharp break of slope and steep edges	1.85	0.7	0.39	
2	203	Fill	202	Fill of possible ditch	Mottled mid pink brown with mid grey brown, friable, with occasional rounded stone inclusions	1.85	0.7	0.39	
3	300	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay, friable with rooting and small rounded stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.3	
3	301	Layer	-	Alluvium	Mid yellow brown, silty clay, friable	30	1.8	0.18	

3	302	Layer	-	Natural	Mid pink orange, clay with silty patches, firm with occasional natural stones	30	1.8	>0.48	
3	303	Cut	-	Cut of ditch	Shallow concave sides and rounded base, running in a North-South direction	>1	0.92	0.39	
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of ditch	Dark black grey silt clay with coarse grit inclusions, friable with occasional loose pebbles inclusions.	<1	0.92	0.39	
3	305	Cut	-	Cut of ditch	Steep sloping concave edges and a rounded base, running in a North-South direction.	>1	0.64	0.2	
3	306	Fill	305	Fill of ditch	Mottled light grey and red brown, silt clay, friable with occasional loose pebbles	>1	0.64	0.2	Post-medieval - modern
4	400	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silt clay, friable with rooting and small rounded stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.3	
4	401	Layer	-	Alluvium	Mid yellow brown, silt clay, friable with small rounded stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.18	
4	402	Layer	-	Natural	Mid pink, orange brown silt clay <30% gravel in patches	30	1.8	0.48	
4	403	Cut	-	Cut of pit/posthole	Oval in plan, with straight, steep sloping edges to the North East and steep sloping slightly concaved edge to the South West	0.5	0.6	0.49	
4	404	Fill	405	Fill of pit	Mid brown grey, clay silt, moderately compact with 1 large stone inclusion	0.5	0.6	0.49	Prehistoric (Neolithic – Bronze Age)

					near the base of the feature.				
5	500	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silt clay, friable with rooting and small rounded stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.3	
5	501	Layer	-	Alluvium	Mid orange brown, silt clay, friable with small rounded stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.38	
5	502	Layer	-	Natural	Mid pink, orange brown, silt clay with greyish brown clay patches	30	1.8	>0.58	
6	600	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silt clay, friable with rooting and small rounded stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.42	
6	601	Layer	-	Natural	Mid pink, orange brown, silt clay with greyish brown clay patches	30	1.8	>0.8	
7	701	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay, friable with rooting and small rounded stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.34	
7	702	Layer	-	Natural	Mid pink orange, clay with silty patches, firm with occasional natural stones	30	1.8	>0.34	
8	800	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay, friable with rooting and small rounded stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.35	
8	801	Layer	-	Natural	Mid pink orange, clay with silty patches, firm with occasional natural stones	30	1.8	>0.35	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silt clay, friable with rotting and small stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.27	
9	901	Layer		Natural	Mid pink orange brown, with light	30	1.8	0.22	

					grey blue patches, clay with patches of clay sand and occasional pebbles				
9	902	Cut	-	Cut of field drain	Linear in plan, steep vertical sides with a sharp v shaped base	1.8	0.79	0.27	
9	903	Fill	902	Fill of field drain	Mid brown grey, silt clay, soft with small to rounded pebbles	1.8	0.56	0.27	
9	904	fill	902	Fill of field drain	Mid orange pink brown, clay with patches of silt, fragments of small rounded stones	1.8	0.56	0.21	
10	1000	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silt clay, friable with rotting and small stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.35	
10	1001	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid orange brown, silt clay, friable with small rounded stone inclusions	30	1.8	0.23	
10	1002	Layer	-	Natural	Mid pink orange brown, with light grey blue patches, clay with patches of clay sand and occasional pebbles	30	1.8	>0.58	
10	1003	Cut	-	Cut of field drain	Unexcavated. Running East to West, continuation from trench 9	1.8	1.2	-	
10	1004	Fill	902	Fill of drain	Mid grey brown orange fill, silty sand, friable - unexcavated	1.8	1.2	-	
11	1100	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark grey brown, clay silt, loose, with occasional medium-large sub angular stones	30	1.8	0.4	
11	1101	Layer	-	Natural	Mid pinkish red silty clay, compact with patches of light green grey, silty clay, compact, moderate to large sub angular stone inclusions	30	1.8	>0.4	

11	1102	Cut	-	Cut of furrow	Shallow slope truncated on West by field drain. Runs South West- North East	>2.2	0.6	0.23	
11	1103	Fill	1102	Fill of furrow	Mid pink brown, sand silt, loose, with occasional medium sub angular and angular stones with chalk inclusions.	>2.2	0.6	0.23	
11	1104	Cut	-	Cut of field drain	Running North East – South West	>2.2	0.2	0.16	
11	1105	Fill	1104	Fill of field drain	Mottled mid pinkish red silt clay compact with light greyish green patches. Redeposited backfill.	>2.2	0.2	0.16	
11	1106	Cut	-	Cut of field drain	Running North East – South West	>2.2	0.17	-	
11	1107	Fill	1106	Fill of French drain	Dark black brown, sand silt, loose with gravel - not bottomed	>2.2	0.17	-	
11	1108	Cut	-	Cut of field drain	Running North East-South West	>2.2	0.29	0.15	
11	1109	Fill	1108	Fill of field drain	Mottled re deposited natural, mid pink brown, sand silt, loose with mid brownish yellow.	>2.2	0.29	0.15	
12	1200	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark grey brown, clay silt, loose, with occasional medium-large sub angular stones	30	1.8	0.35	
12	1201	Layer	-	Natural	Mid pinkish red silty clay, compact with patches of light green grey, silty clay, compact, moderate to large sub angular stone inclusions	30	1.8	>0.35	
13	1300	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey black, friable, sand clay with occasional small pebble	30	1.8	0.35	

					inclusions				
13	1301	Layer	-	Natural	Mid red brown, clay, with patched of sand inclusions, firm	30	1.8	>0.35	
13	1302	Cut	-	Cut of furrow	Irregular concave sloping sides, with largely flat base and a rounded break of slope. Runs North East – South West	>1.8	2.16	0.28	
13	1303	Fill	1302	Fill of furrow	Light grey brown, clay sand, friable with an occasional small pebble	>1.8	0.69	0.28	
13	1304	Fill	1302	Fill of furrow	Light grey brown, clay sand, friable with an occasional small pebble	>1.8	1.04	0.28	
13	1305	Cut	-	Cut of field drain	Linear, with concave sides, and a rounded base and sharp break of slope	>1.8	0.83	0.34	
13	1306	Fill	1305	Fill of field drain	Mottled red brown with light grey brown mixed clay with sandy clay patches, friable with ceramic field drain pipe still intact	>1.8	0.83	0.34	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Class	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
306	CBM	Tile x 1	cs	1	122	LC18-C20
	Post-medieval Pottery	Refined white earthenware	REFW	1	1	
404	Prehistoric Pottery	Coarse sand and flint-tempered fabric	QFL	1	10	PREH

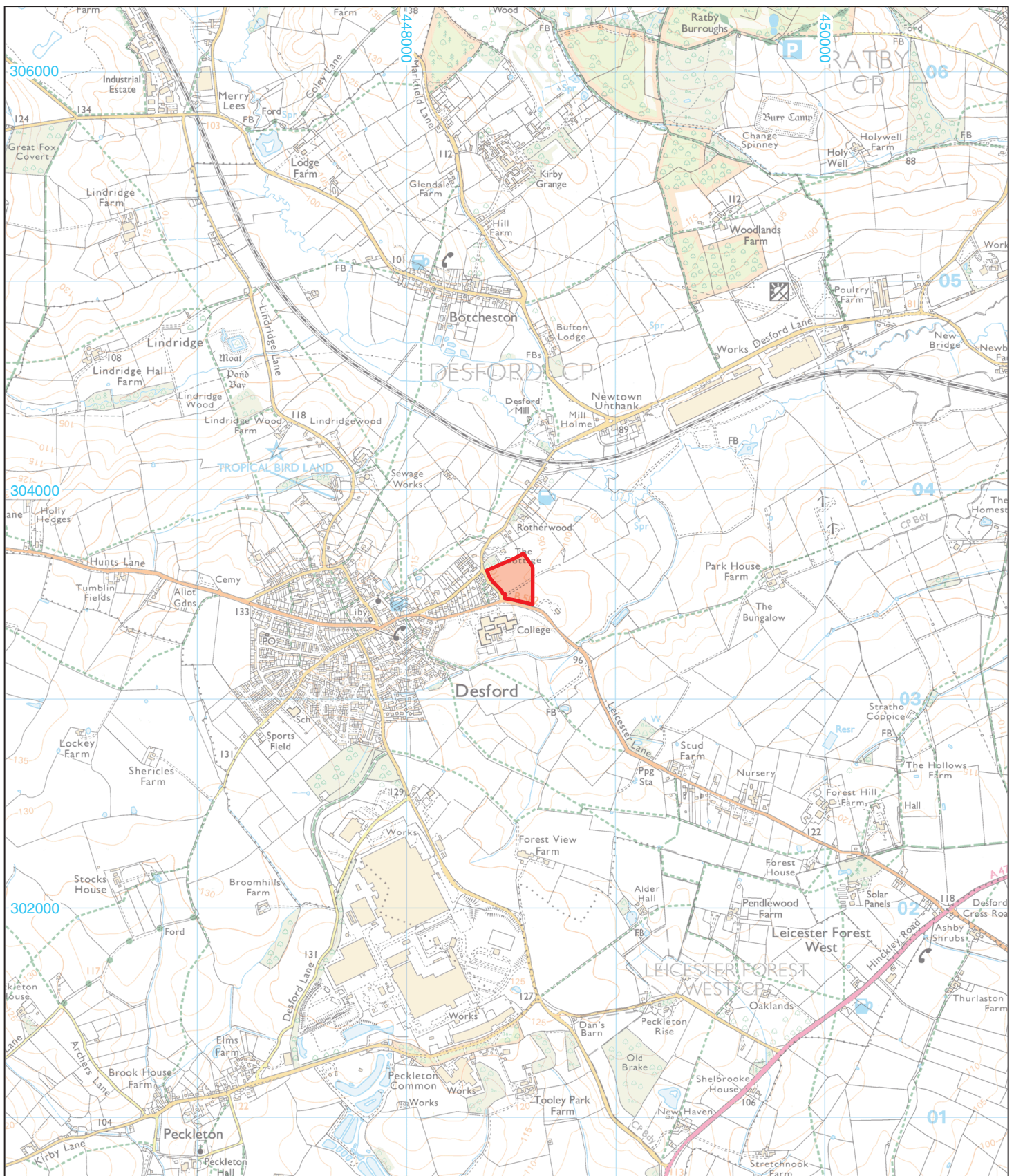
Table 2: Fabric Descriptions

Period	Fabric	Fabric Code	Count	Weight
Prehistoric Pottery	Coarse sand ≤4mm and Coarse flint ≤5mm fabric	QFL	1	10
Post-medieval Pottery	Refined white earthenware	REFW	1	1
Total			2	11

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Land at Barn's Way, Desford, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2019 at Land at Barn's Way, Desford, Leicestershire. Thirteen trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Of these, four revealed limited evidence of archaeological activity. This comprised the remains of three ditches, one small pit and one furrow. No evidence of archaeological activity was recorded in the other nine trenches.</p> <p>The pottery retrieved from pit 403 indicates possibly ephemeral prehistoric activity within or near the site, which could date to the Late Neolithic period. The heavily abraded condition of the sherd and its lack of association with other remains could indicate long term exposure to the elements, and movement over time, perhaps through the agency of agricultural activity, around the site prior to infilling as part of the pit fill. It may on that basis be residual within the pit. However, one cannot, unfortunately, draw a more meaningful conclusion on the basis of this single very abraded sherd. Otherwise, the results of the evaluation broadly confirm the expectations discussed in the preceding desk-based assessment and indicated in the results of the geophysical survey.</p> <p>In summary, no evidence of occupation was identified within the site and the remains of ditches are likely to represent infilled elements of former field boundaries suggesting that the principal use of the site through time has been for agricultural purposes.</p>
Project dates	11-13 November 2019
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (Orion Heritage 2019b) Geophysics survey (MS 2019)
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Barn's Way, Desford, Leicestershire
Study area (M ² /ha)	
Site co-ordinates	SK 48541 03559
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Orion Heritage
Project Manager	Mark Hewson
Project Supervisor	Eilidh Barr
MONUMENT TYPE	Pit, Ditches
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Single prehistoric sherd

PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive: Leicester County Council Museum	...
Physical		Pottery, CBM
Paper		Context sheets, Trench Sheets
Digital		Digital photographs, Digital plans
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Land at Barn's Way, Desford, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation. Report n MK0159_1</i>		



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Barn's Way, Desford,
 Leicestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

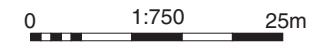


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CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 19/11/2019	
APPROVED BY EB	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1



- Site outline
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)
- Furrow
- Drain



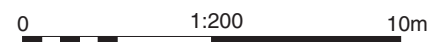
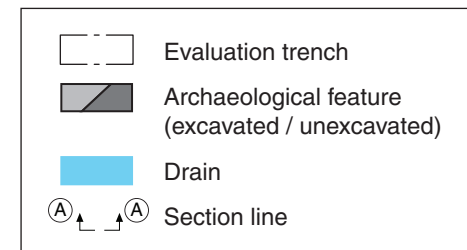
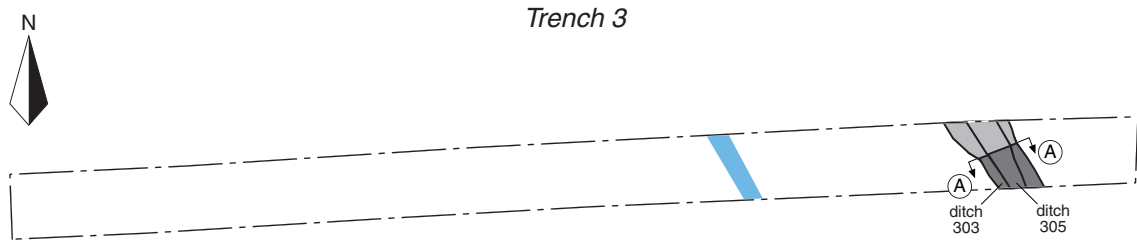
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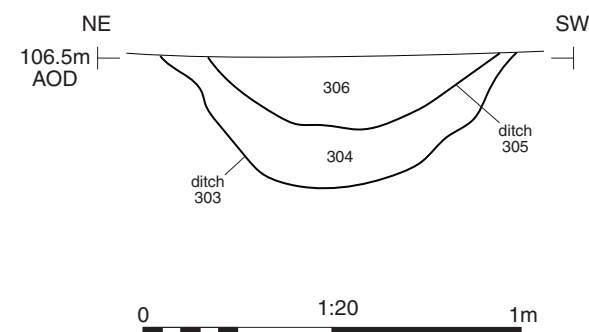
PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Barn's Way, Desford,
 Leicestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

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Section AA



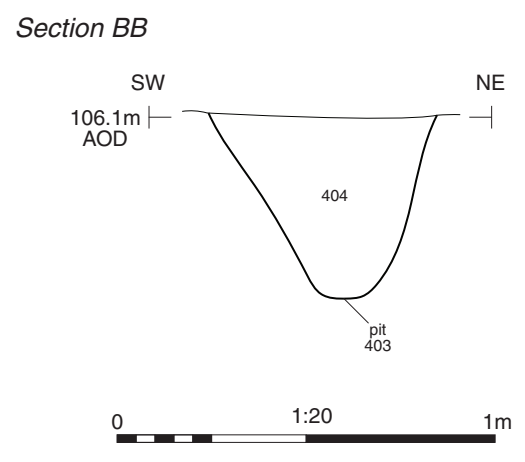
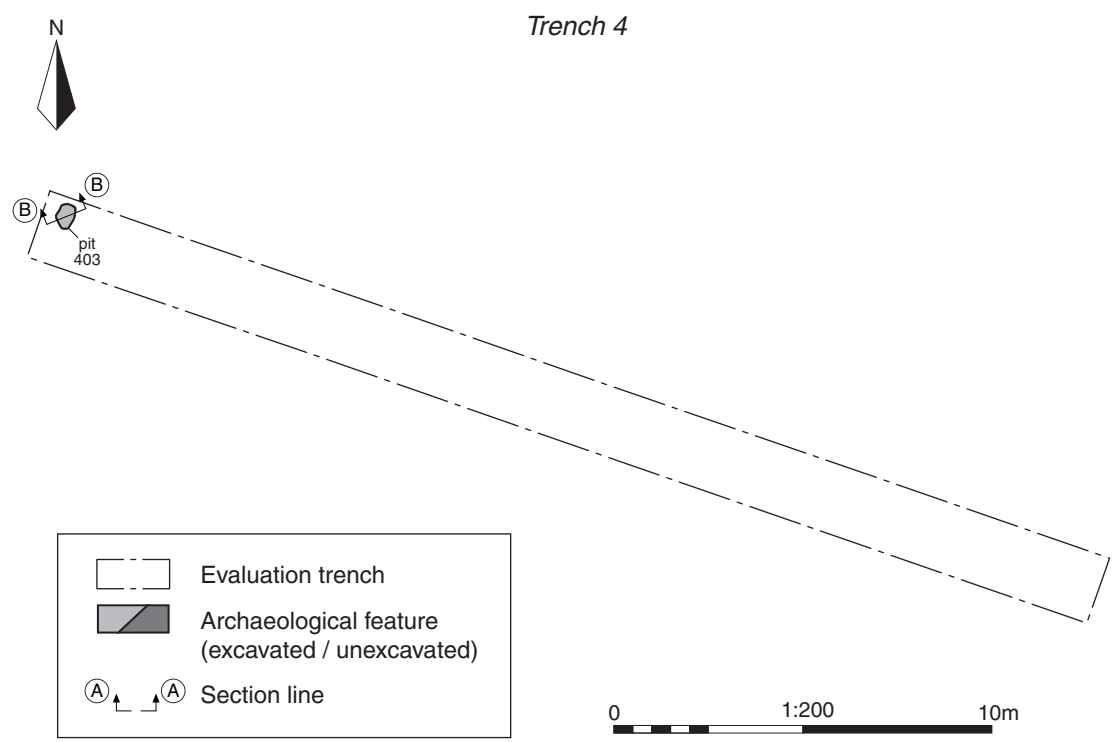
Ditches 303 and 305, looking south-east (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3: plan, section and photograph

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APPROVED BY	EB	SCALE@A3	1:20	



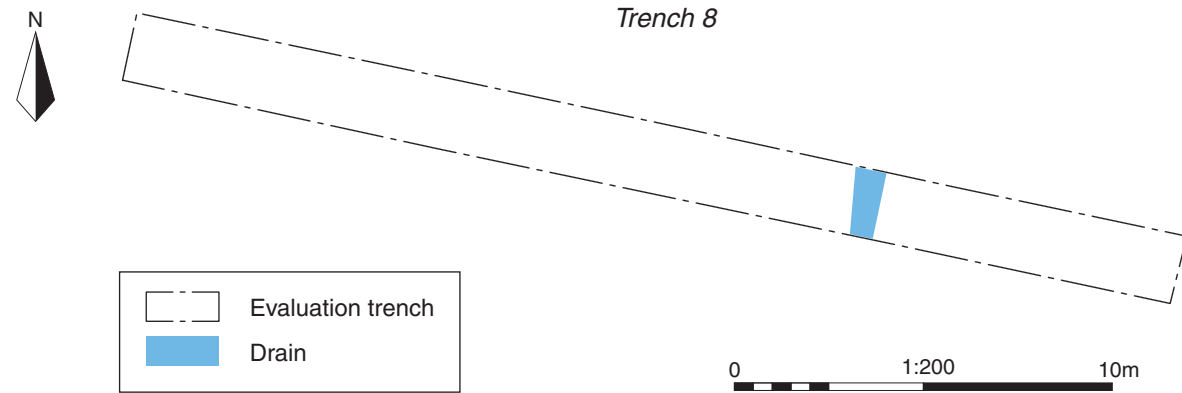
Pit 403, looking north-west (0.3m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 4: plan, section and photograph

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Trench 8, looking north-west (1m scales)

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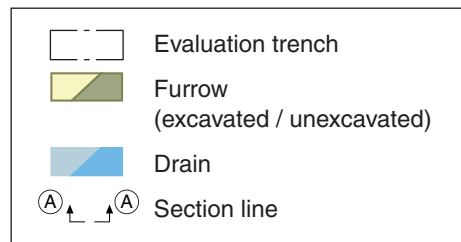
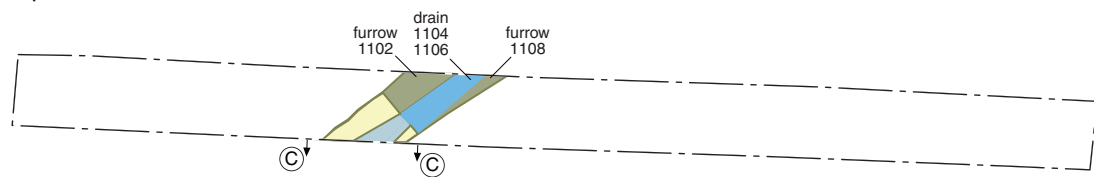
PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Barn's Way, Desford,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 8: plan and photograph

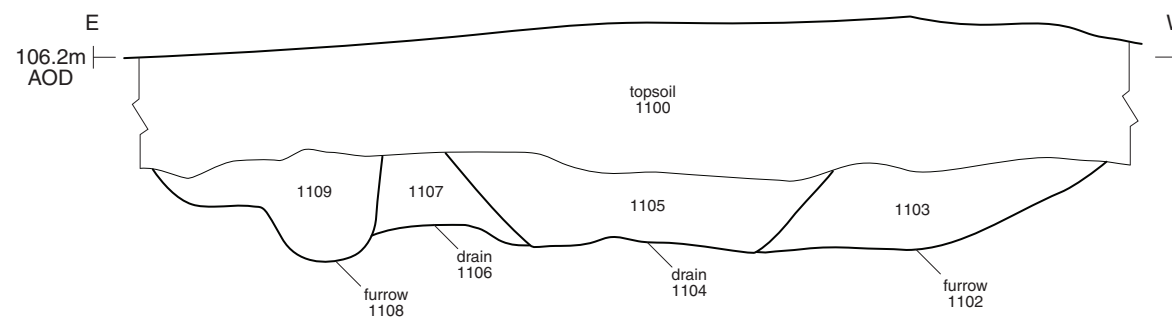
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Trench 11



Section CC



Furrow 1102 (right), looking south-west (1m scale)


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 Land at Barn's Way, Desford,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 11: plan, section and
 photograph**

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